

Germany's town hall

Bamberg, 5 October 1980
Nineteenth Year - No. 959 - By air

The German Tribune

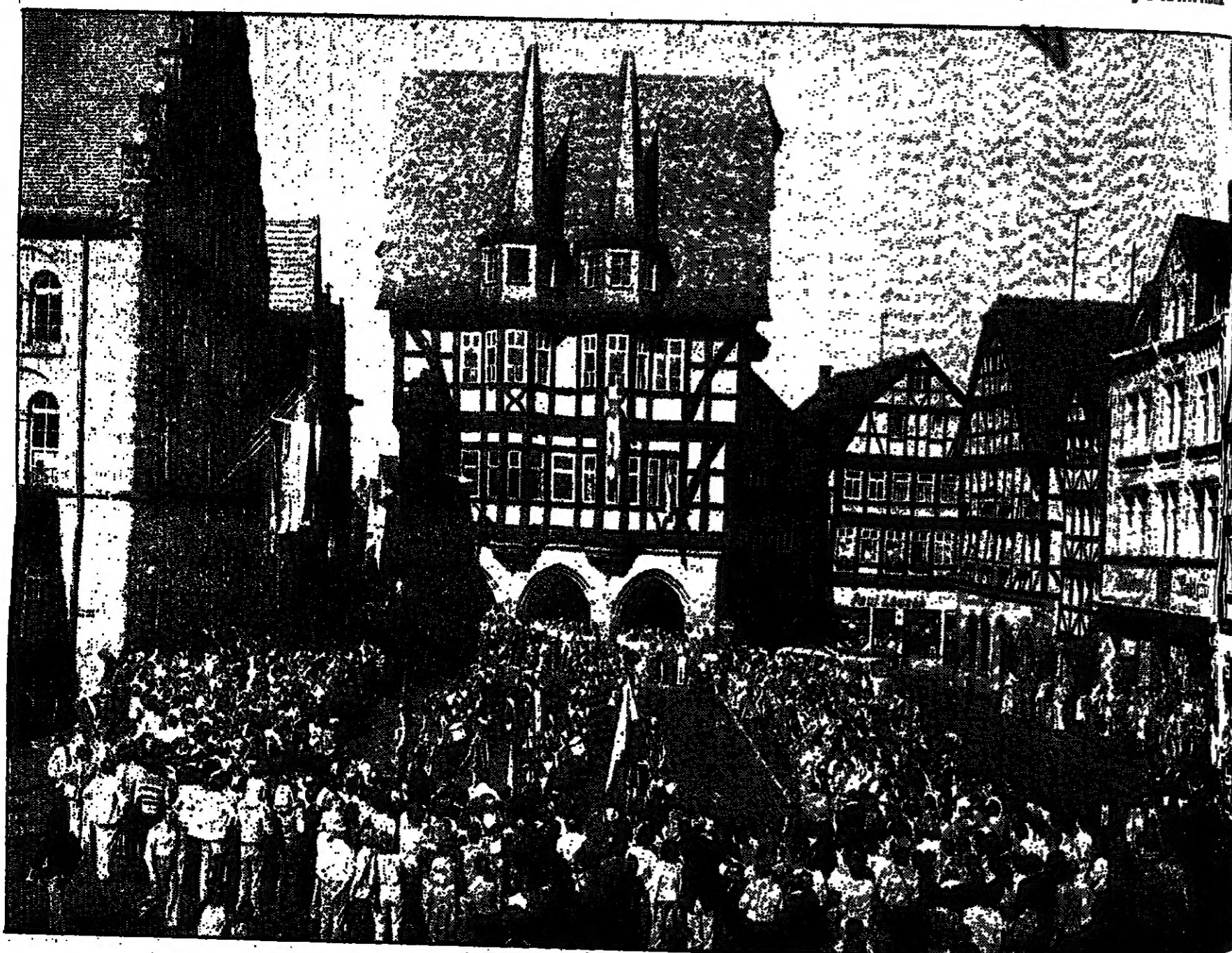
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It's true, in Goethe's Frankfurt there is the old Town Hall, dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. But there is also the modern "technical" Town Hall, rather like the Astro-Houston Center in downtown Houston. And there's another in Bonn, resembling a white mountain

peak, ultramodern, like Mont Blanc on the Rhine. But the historic old town halls still predominate in Germany. Have you seen the delightful half-timbered building in Alsfeld, dating from 1512? Bernkastel town hall on the Moselle? The Renaissance one in Lindau on

Lake Constance? Or perhaps one built in 1484 for the city of Michelstadt in the Odenwald which looks like a Gothic clock house or a present bought in an old-fashioned toyshop? You should try it sometime for a change - trip to Germany's town halls.



Alsfeld
Frankfurt am Main

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS
Beethovenstrasse 68, D-5000 Frankfurt

Middle East war tautens big power nerves

A coincidence would have it, the latest round of fighting in the Middle East began as the UN General Assembly was being convened.

Countries from all over the world, the great powers and the less powerful, met in New York for what must surely have appeared to be an ideal opportunity for crisis management.

But do the great powers really want to do their utmost to end hostilities? At present it looks more as though they would prefer to look on while marshalling their own weapons.

When crises occur in oil-rich regions the United States starts to show symptoms of unease that could lead to panic supplies are threatened.

There is talk of low reserves, spilling prices on the spot market and what

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might happen if, say, Iran were to blockade the Strait of Hormuz.

There are fears it will be even longer before the US embassy hostages are released. The prevailing mood ranges from nervous to tension-laden.

President Carter has stressed US neutrality in the fighting between Iran and Iraq. So, for his part, has the Soviet Union.

America is keeping a low initial profile yet also keeping an eye on its opposite number in Moscow. But behind the scenes the military build-up is under way.

The United States already has 31 warships in the region. A further aircraft carrier and accompanying craft are heading to the area from Kenya. Phantom jets are on standby in Egypt.

The Soviet Union has a comparable array of military hardware at the ready, but for the time being it, too, is neutral.

Yet for all its neutrality, the Soviet Union is somewhat pro-Iraq. There are no signs that it is calling a halt to arms supplies to Baghdad or exerting diplomatic pressure on Iraq.

Moscow has a friendship treaty with Baghdad. Is the Kremlin keen to teach Khomeini-style Islam a lesson?

Pentagon experts do not set great store by the fighting strength of the Iranian army but reckon the more powerful Iranian navy ought to be able to close the Strait of Hormuz, which would deal a potentially mortal blow to the West's oil supplies.

The Carter Doctrine that the Persian Gulf is an area of vital interest to the United States would then have to come



Seeing nothing, hearing nothing, knowing nothing.

(Cartoon: Horst Halitzinger/Nordwest Zeitung)

Genscher slates Soviet arms proposal

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher became the first Nato spokesman to point out at the UN the drawback to Mr. Gromyko's seemingly generous offer to freeze armaments at the level of 1 January 1981.

The fundamental prerequisite, balance of power, did not exist, he said, and it was the Soviet Union that was engaged in an arms build-up out of all proportion, especially in Europe.

It remains to be seen what substance will remain of the Soviet Foreign Minister's surprisingly caustic comments and what was merely said for theatrical effect.

He and US Secretary of State Edmund Muskie were due to resume disarmament talks shortly, and a European disarmament conference had already cast its shadow even though a deadline had not yet been set.

Herr Genscher pointed out that more was needed than a complex estimate of reciprocal destructive capacity. Confidence-building measures also mattered.

Confidence, he said, was indivisible, which was a point that deserved to find a permanent place in political vocabulary.

It is an argument the Soviet Union will be unable to disregard if indeed it takes disarmament seriously.

It is an apparent anachronism (but only seemingly so) for disarmament to be discussed at the UN while countries are at war again in the Middle East.

The countries concerned are, after all, using arms and armaments supplied by the superpowers. So arms limitation must also mean limiting the export of arms.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 September 1980)

New York meeting shows Bonn, East Berlin keen to talk

Bonn and East Berlin are still keen to talk - that is the only message that can be drawn from the meeting in New York of Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the GDR's Oskar Fischer.

Their meeting at the United Nations took place despite the cancellation of the meeting between Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and East German leader Erich Honecker.

Intra-German ties are not part of Herr Genscher's job, so a few years ago the new of his meeting with Herr Fischer would have been the subject of special mention.

Nowadays it is merely viewed as proof that both sides are keen to ease the tension in intra-German ties despite the fact that characterises world affairs at present.

Since Herr Fischer would not overstep the brief given him by East German leader Erich Honecker, the intra-German encounter in New York must be read as a sign from East Berlin.

Herr Genscher significantly announced beforehand that he would not, to the point of self-abnegation, be dis-

cussing bilateral issues, merely multilateral problems.

This was intended to play down the intra-German aspect of his talks with Herr Fischer, but experience shows that ties of this kind must be seen in the overall context.

What the two men discussed may well be included in intra-German talks even though intra-German negotiations may officially be held by other politicians or envoys.

So Herr Genscher's meeting with his GDR opposite number cannot fall to have been of use in one way or another.

While his encounter with Herr Fischer may prove to have an indirect bearing on practical politics, the wider-ranging talks with Nato Foreign Ministers accomplished more specific results.

Agreement was reached in New York, for instance, that there would be no

point in the Helsinki review conference, scheduled to begin in Madrid on 11 November, unless the Soviet Union agreed to confidence-building measures beforehand.

A European disarmament conference held in the wake of the Helsinki agreement could only be considered if the East bloc were prepared to include the whole of European Russia, from the Baltic to the Urals, as the conference's terms of reference.

So Herr Genscher had no shortage of topics with which to play in his address to the General Assembly and subsequent meeting with Mr. Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart.

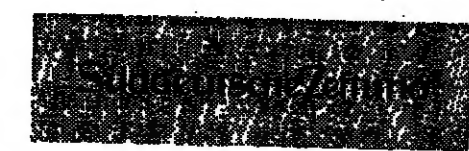
Mr. Gromyko's speech to the UN had already conveyed some idea of the Soviet attitude, including a proposal for freezing military blocs that certainly came as a surprise.

Bodo Schulte
(Nordwest Zeitung, 24 September 1980)

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THE LAW

Lawyers seek reinforced rights for foreigners



Rarely has a German Lawyers' Conference dealt with a topic precisely when that topic was hitting the headlines. This year was an exception. The lawyers' discussions of the Aliens' Law came at a time of intense debate on Germany's attitudes to foreigners.

Hostility towards foreigners is increasingly dangerous in this country and the problem of political asylum is often no more than a pretext for the airing of deep-seated resentments.

The lawyers' proposals for solving the integration and asylum problems make a refreshing change from the current wave of xenophobia.

Instead of backing the harsher measures many people are calling for, the lawyers criticised the state for failings in the past. They urged the state to press forward with integration and thus ensure that the guests who wanted to spend longer periods or even the rest of their life in West Germany could become citizens.

The lawyers proposed that the longer foreigners stayed here the greater their rights should be. This would give foreigners here many years the same basic constitutional rights as Germans.

Specifically, this means not only a reduction of the possibilities of deportation but also a liberalisation of work permit granting procedures and of the possibility of self-employed activity.

The lawyers also propose stronger legal safeguards for the wives and children of foreign workers who have established themselves in West Germany.

The lawyers also want to see more done to improve the education and vocational training of foreign children and youngsters and to ensure they have the same rights as their German peers.

Nothing could underline more clearly that the slogan "Germany is not a country for immigrants" no longer holds — now that so many guest workers have been allowed into the country for economic reasons.

These demands are not at all new. The lawyers gathered in Berlin stressed that their demands squared fully with the requirements of the constitution. But they certainly do not fit into the

general political mood of the country at the moment. Maybe the lawyers could be accused of naivety or of making their proposals at the worst possible time.

However, this objection will hardly bother the lawyers — their function is not to pursue short-sighted practical policies but to give politicians food for thought — even if the politicians sometimes find this unpalatable.

The Lawyers' Conference also discussed the political rights of foreigners. However, the lawyers were cautious about whether foreigners should be given the active or passive right to vote — at least in local council elections. Lawyers do not seem to be too happy about these proposals.

They said that although there were no constitutional objections to foreigners having the right to vote in local elections, there was nothing in the constitution which said they had to be granted this right.

Because of the differences of opinion, they recommended that there should be a clarification of the issue in the Basic Law. In other words, the Lawyers' Conference recommended a conditional rejection.

This makes one wonder why another conference working party recommended a greater say for foreigners at local council level. But the only way they can get this greater say is via the vote.

Change in life imprisonment laws recommended

German lawyers want the mandatory life imprisonment sentence for murder to be changed.

It would mean that, in certain circumstances, convicted murderers would not be sentenced to life imprisonment.

The proposals were made at the German Lawyers' Conference in Berlin.

They are bound to cause, at the least, violent discussion.

There are many people in West Germany who still have not got over the abolition of the death penalty.

Throughout the world, executions seem to be the order of the day. The hangman has his hands full.

News of executions in Iran have, unfortunately, almost become routine. When an opposition leader in South Korea was sentenced to death, the whole world protested.

Throughout the world, it is judges who decide how to decide about life, guilt and atonement. Some of these judges are under political pressure. And others are granted the freedom to determine the punishment themselves.

In this confused world of legal concepts the German Lawyers' Conference has made a remarkable move.

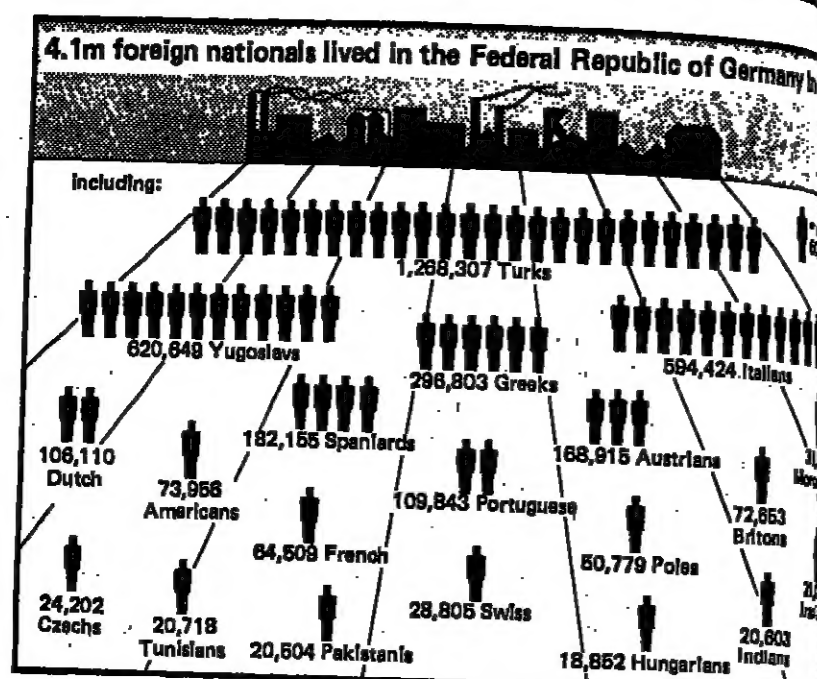
If this revolutionary proposal were to find its way into the penal code, it could give rise to controversy such as has not been seen since the abolition of the death penalty.

The Berlin resolution by the lawyers is still overshadowed by the general election campaign. But no doubt some electioneer will hit on the bright idea of hammering the lawyer's proposal. And this is precisely why a warning seems appropriate.

The first point is that few countries in the world can afford to hold such a discussion about liberalisation of the penal code.

Critics of the lawyers' proposals will no doubt argue that it will remove a deterrent. Prospective murderers will no longer need to fear spending the rest of their life behind bars. However, judges have often complained that under the present system it is extremely difficult

Kurt Becker
(Die Zeit, 26 September 1980)



On the question of the right to asylum the conference took the same line as leading politicians. There was general and unsentimental agreement in Berlin that the influx of non-genuine applicants for political asylum can only be stopped by speeding up recognition procedures and administrative court procedures.

This is why they want to give the relevant powers greater scope to deal summarily with clearly bogus applications. In such cases, the possibilities which now exist of prolonging the case would be reduced to nil.

The lawyers believe, for example, that it would be the refusal of a work permit for the first year after the submission of an application would be a legitimate way of deterring bogus applicants. By this means, it is hoped that the situation in

West Germany will soon be similar to that in Austria, where applicants must have to spend only two months in internment camps.

With rare exceptions, this is how it takes to reach a decision on applications.

To sum up it can be said that the Lawyers' Conference adopted a pragmatic approach to the problem of the foreigners already living here. On the one hand, the minister will have to do something — with one million unemployed he will have to give an impression of tireless industry, even if this achieves nothing. On the other hand he will not be able to repeat what he did last year, spending DM500m.

Why not? The money simply is not there. In the remaining months of this year the Chancellor's Office and the ministries will have to scrape together DM 1.9 billion to finance the budget.

And things will remain just as gloomy next year.

Ehrenberg has said that new economy-boosting programmes will soon be necessary. Such programmes would contain money for special employment-boosting measures — money not available from the normal ministry budget.

Herr Ehrenberg could then create new jobs. However, both unions and employers are distinctly cool.

Heinz Kluncker's ÖTV (Transport and Public Service Workers) is annoyed about job creation schemes which, it says, benefit mainly the local authorities.

Instead of taking on permanent staff, the towns and local councils take on the unemployed — and their wage costs are often covered 100 per cent and more by the Bonn government and the employment offices.

The employers are equally disgruntled.

Frankfurter Neue Presse, 22 September 1980

LABOUR

Mixed feelings about job creation schemes, as unemployment rises

Special expenditure on relieving unemployment cannot be maintained at its current level this year because there is not enough money.

Last year Bonn Minister of Labour Herbert Ehrenberg spent DM500m on special programmes for regions with the worst unemployment problems.

This sum was almost doubled by various labour offices.

If the coalition is re-elected, Herr Ehrenberg could well find himself still as Labour Minister and therefore still confronted with one of his most serious problems.

The prospects are not good. Quite apart from the fact that there will be 130,000 school leavers entering the market, the slight economic downturn is also likely to boost jobless figures.

Unemployment this year has averaged around 800,000. Next year it is unlikely to be less than one million.

Solutions are expensive and difficult. On the one hand the minister will have to do something — with one million unemployed he will have to give an impression of tireless industry, even if this achieves nothing. On the other hand he will not be able to repeat what he did last year, spending DM500m.

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Frankfurter Neue Presse, 22 September 1980

They think that far too much money is being pumped into these schemes, even though they and the local councils concerned do not say so when offered it.

The schemes do not permanently improve the employment situation, runs their argument. There is no "carry-over" effect.

This criticism is harsh — but not unfounded. Close study of the DM500m programme started by the government in the summer of 1979 — to which the employment offices added another DM430m — shows that no spectacular successes have been achieved.

It is only fair to add here though that the final success of the job creation programmes will only be able to be judged next year, when the various employment subsidies expire.

The first main feature of the programme was to improve the qualification of workers in companies adapting and switching production. This was something new — though pedants might

object that in-company retraining can be done without special programmes — though then the subsidies would be somewhat smaller.

The basic idea sounds plausible enough. Instead of waiting until someone is sacked before retraining him, you train him on the job as soon as his job is threatened.

Those gaining skilled worker qualifications earn for their company 90 per cent of their wage costs; otherwise they only get 80 per cent.

There seem to have been some carry-over effects here, but they were probably none too great. Even the National Federation of Employers' Associations concedes that the generous rise of the subsidies induced many companies to put many a planned rationalisation measure on ice.

On the whole, the general effect was "not bad."

About DM400m has been assigned to further in-service training schemes. A

Poll finds out what the workers think

Forty-six per cent of members of the metal workers' union, IG Metall, believe that strikes do more harm than good in the long run.

Sixty-four per cent of all metal industry workers agree that strikes and lockouts are a legitimate part of free collective bargaining.

These are two of the findings of a poll commissioned by Gesamtmetall, the employers' association of the metal-working industry.

The poll, conducted by the Munich research institute, Infratest, found that workers in the industry, half of whom belong to IG Metall, clearly approve of the union.

A total of 71 per cent of those polled approved of the union, in varying degrees involving a sliding scale of points.

Even 60 per cent of the non-union workers polled said their sympathies were with the union.

About 19 per cent of members did not like the union.

The employers' association view: "On the whole, the IG Metall enjoys a very high standing among metal workers, but it is not without competition. Even more workers — 73 per cent — had positive attitudes towards their own management."

Frankfurter Neue Presse, 22 September 1980

large part of this money may make the later payment of unemployment benefit superfluous and will thus have been well invested.

And the remainder will have been nothing but public subsidising of company restructuring which is taking place every day and everywhere.

The second main feature of the Ehrenberg programme was a total flop. The "reintegration of the unskilled and the long-term unemployed" has had little resonance and possibly even less success. The employment offices have simply sent the companies too few candidates — although unskilled and long-term unemployed take up a great deal of place in their files.

The reasons for this are well known to all concerned: undoubtedly there is a considerable number of underqualified people and many who have been out of work for a long time through no fault of their own.

On the other hand there are those that can simply be described as the dregs of the labour market, who would run a mile at Olympic pace to avoid even the whiff of a job.

Employment policies should not address themselves to these people. Rather they are cases for the social worker. Improvement of social work is precisely

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ranters, further education and in-service training and the improvement of terms and conditions.

Support for union advocacy of the shorter working week is more muted. Here one in five members advises caution on the future. Support for union general social policies is minimal. Only 16 per cent of IG Metall members support investment controls and the corresponding figure for shop stewards is only 30 per cent.

At its trade union congress in Berlin IG Metall called for a ban on lockouts, which would give them superiority in labour disputes.

This is not supported by metal workers, 64 per cent of whom agree that strikes and lockouts are part of free collective bargaining.

This is a view shared by 62 per cent of ordinary union members and only 33 per cent of trade union officials.

Most workers and 46 per cent of trade union members believe that in the long run strikes do more harm than good. Only 39 per cent of those asked concluded from the fact of a lockout that employers were hostile to workers, 59 per cent disagreed.

(Handelsblatt, 22 September 1980)

Disarmament prospects

Continued from page 2

gress without horse-trading of some kind or other.

What matters is that the two superpowers are keen to negotiate separately Eurostrategic weapons so as to ensure that agreement of any kind is reached and that the United States does so in close collaboration with its allies.

Nine months after the invasion of Afghanistan, which was a severe setback to East-West ties, there is now a possibility of approximating the balance of power in Europe at the conference table.

The outcome of these talks might partially, or even entirely, relieve the West of the need to embark on the nuclear arms modernisation programme.

Had it not been for Helmut Schmidt's visit to Moscow at the time the chose to make it, this prospect might well not have been there for the asking.

Whether or not anything comes of it will naturally depend to no small extent on the outcome of the US Presidential elections.

At least for the time being Mr Reagan advocates an approach entirely different from President Carter's.

But US experts and Western European governments are confident no US President be it Jimmy Carter or Ronald Reagan, can ignore the disarmament imperative in the nuclear era.

Kurt Becker
(Die Zeit, 26 September 1980)

This year shortwave radio in Germany celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. On 26 August 1929 ZEESEN shortwave station began regular transmissions. Together with the DEUTSCHLAND-SENDER it broadcast a selection of German broadcasting companies' programmes. That was the beginning of German shortwave and external broadcasts.

The Deutsche Welle, which began its programme service in 1953 followed the tradition of the World Radio Service. Its transmissions in German and thirty-three foreign languages

Deutsche Welle

50 YEARS
SHORTWAVE RADIO
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are intended to give listeners abroad a picture of life in Germany. Tape recorded programmes produced by the Radio Transcription Service complement the direct transmissions.

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FINANCE

Bundesbank keeps hand on the tiller through open-market means

The Bundesbank has been using various instrument open to it on the open market to control the nation's economy.

These instruments have the advantage of being extremely flexible, but they also prevent other parties involved from having a clear view of the behaviour of the market place.

Under the Bundesbank's current policy, any excesses by the financial markets are nipped in the bud.

This means that the Bundesbank does not give untimely economic signals but it also means that stock exchange and foreign exchange dealers must act blindfold. People who have no exact data at their fingertips have no choice but to act by guess and by God. It remains for the Bundesbank to prove that this is a desirable effect of its policy.

Open market operations of the Bundesbank since the middle of this year add up to billions. And this is likely to cause unrest on the markets. But what is more interesting is not the gross addition but the ultimate balance sheet.

And here is how it works: when the Bundesbank wants to control the money supply it avails itself of a range of instruments at its disposal. It can lower or increase the minimum reserve (the amount of money banks must keep on interest-free deposit with the Bundesbank) or it can vary the borrowing capacity of the banks by means of banker's acceptances.

But these instruments are of a rather spectacular nature and the public usually views them as a signal for a change in credit policy.

As a result, the Bundesbank likes an open-market policy. It buys or sells securities or foreign exchange — frequently only for a specific period. If it buys securities with the intention of keeping

them for a few weeks only, it takes them on as "boarders" so to speak. Hence the term "boarding deals" in the securities sector.

If the same thing is done with foreign exchange, the Bundesbank exchanges the foreign currency for domestic money. This is known as a "swap deal".

The Bundesbank opted for a stepped up open-market policy when it turned out that the banks were forced to make use of Lombard loans. This involves a virtually unlimited line of credit in which the banks deposit securities as a collateral — a practice which has long been a thorn in the flesh of the Bundesbank because such deals are very difficult to regulate.

Be this as it may, such Lombard loans should be replaced by providing the banks with liquidity or, when necessary, cutting back on liquidity temporarily.

Foreign exchange swaps have been a subject of public discussion for some weeks. But recently attention was focused on a securities boarding deal involving DM 3.8 bn which expired at the

end of August and was replaced by an even bigger deal of this nature (DM 5.4 bn).

At the end of August, when the banks had to redeem these securities and pay the Bundesbank, the central bankers lowered the minimum reserve to approximately that extent to perpetuate the monetary shot in the arm.

It is impossible to say to what extent the market has been affected in net terms because at the same time some foreign exchange swap deals also fell due.

A normal swap deal means that the Bundesbank buys foreign exchange with the understanding between the two parties that the currency will be bought back on a certain date.

Thus the banks receive money to start with but have to return it on due date. This rarely affects the minimum reserve because the banks obtain the dollars they have to turn over to the Bundesbank through follow-up swap deals. This is likely to have cost 8.6 to 8.7 per cent per annum in the past few months.

Last month, DM 1.5 bn in swap deals

Currency reforms like those that destroyed the nation's savings after the end of both world wars will not be repeated in this country — at least, not as long as an independent Bundesbank keeps its eyes on our money.

There is also no indication of a political constellation in Bonn that could change this: all democratic parties must do their utmost to prevent such a contingency if they want to survive.

And in fact all parties have promised the electorate exactly that. Yet the deutchmark has become an issue in the election campaign — and nobody knows who started the ball rolling.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer says it was a Swiss information service.

North Rhine-Westphalia's Prime Minister Johannes Rau (also SPD) made a remark during a State Assembly debate on the subject that created the impression that he considered a currency re-

The currency becomes a campaign issue

form a suitable instrument of government policy.

It is regrettable that certain Opposition politicians were unable to resist the temptation to seize upon the issue.

It is also regrettable that the CDU/CSU platform contains certain phrases which operate with currency reforms.

In fact, level-headed Opposition politicians would probably be delighted if they could somehow make the whole thing unsaid.

But unfortunately, there it is in black and white. At least, Franz Josef Strauss tried to make amends by saying in a TV broadcast: "I don't speak of a currency reform; and I don't say that we will

fall due, followed by another bn. In the course of the month, DM 2 bn to DM 2.5 bn could fall due. Depending on whether the bank considers the future on the market has problems or not, it is further swap deals.

One thing has, however, been clear: Such swap deals are suitable for term monetary steering while the boarding can only be used effectively in the central bank wants to influence the entire market.

How long will the central bank continue to steer its present course, is marked by adequate liquidity in giving signals?

This will largely depend on the foreign trade position. In fact, a monetary decision has already been made.

The unusually wide gap between discount and the Lombard rate has been reduced from 2 to 1.5 per cent points by lowering the Lombard rate leaving the discount rate as it is.

This is a moderate signal which has an immediate effect on the market.

Should further adjustment be made in the Bundesbank would again have to avail itself of its open market instruments.

But our amazingly resilient economy and the balance of payments deficit countrywide, complete with picnic for the gentleness of a hairbrush, overtaken by leather-clad hot-rodders on their four-stroke motorbikes.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 September)

BUSINESS

Cost, energy, health, boost the comeback of two-wheelers

Motorbikes: A comeback

What is at the root of this boom? For one thing, there is the health kick. And is there a better way of showing that one is young and dynamic than astride a powerful motorbike? But quite apart from such ulterior motives, two-wheelers are simply fun — and to most this is reason enough to join the growing fraternity. Energy consciousness has also had its effect. Bicycling requires no fuel at all and motorbikes are much more economical than cars.

Moreover, a lot of people have money to spare which they would like to put into something special. Bicycles and motorbikes can be displayed publicly while expensive furniture and hi-fi equipment can only be admired by friends.

This general trend has changed the face of the cycle market. The collapsible bicycle, once praised as the ultimate synthesis of motorised and non-motorised transport because it stows easily in the boot of a car, is passé.

Its only advantage, i.e. its collapsibility, far from outweighs the many disadvantages. Besides, the cheap bicycle is no longer a seller. The scene is dominated by the ultra-lightweight sport and racing varieties with a wide range of gears and costing not less than a four-digit deutchmark figure.

But there is also another trend towards the maximum of comfort. Those who do not want to have their bones shaken out because the extremely hard tyres of the racing machines go for the gemütlich touring bike with its comfortable

services or environment would only be filled when the money was available — and the money was not available. Now it is there. The question is whether these jobs should be paid for partly out of Bonn government money and partly out of national insurance contributions. If health insurance contributions were used to buy weapons for the Bundeswehr, this would hardly be a greater abuse.

The Ministry of Labour argues that new jobs have been created after all. But they cannot guarantee the permanence of these jobs. No one knows how these jobs are going to be financed in 1981 if the shower of gold from Bonn or the employment offices should suddenly cease to fall.

(Die Zeit, 19 September 1980)



Family vehicle: this three-wheeler is designed to take a full load — including baby. It was on show in Cologne. (Photo: dpa)

able saddle. Makers and dealers are jubilant: The average buyer is happy to pay between DM400 and DM500 for these bikes and is quite prepared to keep the pursestrings open for a few extras.

The bicycle is no longer the poor man's transport. In fact, it has become an alternative lifestyle vehicle with all the ideology that goes with it.

The smaller motorbikes (up to 50cc) must also provide quality to find buyers. Cheap models don't sell, nor do those that try to present a front of luxury without keeping this promise.

Most of these low-cc vehicles are driven by juveniles between 15 and 18 and paid for by the parents.

German-made in upper price range

Those who like to buy German have to pay more. Manufacturers here specialise in the upper price range vehicles, trusting in the quality consciousness of teenagers and their tenacity in nagging the parents.

There is a change of trend concerning small motorbikes. The present bicycle with an auxiliary motor will give way as at the beginning of next year to the newly defined light motorbike which will be less noisy and not so easily souped up.

Horsepower obsession is an important motivating force in buyers of motorbikes; but the insurance premiums are acting as a brake here. As a result, only 18 per cent of the newly licenced motorbikes in the first six months of this year had engines of more than 750cc.

Though most motorbikes fans dream of these heavy machines, they ultimately settle for the low insurance premium range of up to 27hp which can be bought for between DM4,000 and DM6,000. These motorbikes dominate the market where they have cornered a 40 per cent share.

Japanese makes account for 85 per cent of German sales because Japanese makers have cleverly flooded the market with a wide range to suit all tastes.

So called enduro bikes and soft chopers of the American-style. Easyrider variety now account for more than one-third of sales and are still advancing.

If it were not for long delivery times, spare part shortages and shoddy servicing, the motorbike industry would be unclouded.

Carold Linde
(Handelsblatt, 18 September 1980)

Unemployment

Continued from page 5

by the third main feature is all about, an official title being "Improvement of social services and social infrastructure."

Ministry of Labour officials enthuse about this aspect of the programme. More jobs have been reported and more money applied for this aspect than for any other: DM430m by means of which 8,000 new jobs have been financed. For comparison: the last programme only created 3,000 jobs, of which no one knows how many will still exist in a year.

This demand is unsurprising. It has been known that jobs in the social

The European patent Office, which was founded in November 1977 and has now moved into new modern quarters in Munich, has become a symbol of West European cooperation.

The offices in the black glass colossus on the banks of Munich's Isar River are inundated with patent applications from all parts of the world because European patents are valid in 11 European countries.

Members of the European patent Organisation are West Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria and Liechtenstein.

Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Norway and Monaco are still to ratify the agreement. Other countries are likely to join the years to come.

Some 12,500 applications have been received since the office started accepting registrations on 1 June 1978. The first patents were issued in January 1980 and their number has now risen to 350.

The European patent gives across-border protection

The European Patent Office employs 1,420; 470 in Munich, 830 in The Hague and 120 in Berlin.

After completion of the development phase in a few years' time, the staff will increase to 2,000, 1,000 in Munich. Many of these will be recruited from national patent offices which already have much less work than before.

The German Patent Office had 32 per cent fewer foreign applications in the first half of 1980 than in the first half of 1977, which proves that the European division of labour functions well.

The Europatent is particularly advantageous to those inventors who want simultaneous protection in several European countries. In former years, they had to file a separate application in the local language with every national patent office. To make matters worse, the criteria for granting a patent widely from country to country.

Gatt plea to step up investment

Fighting inflation with the aim of removing uncertainties in the investment climate is one of the appeals by the Secretariat of Gatt in its annual report.

The Geneva-based organisation also calls for protectionist measures to be removed and cartels to be broken up.

Gatt says that the present adjustment problems can only be solved by stepped-up investments.

The non-oil exporting developing countries, which have to cope with enormous balance of payments problems, must at the same time try to reduce their external debts and increase domestic capital — an almost impossible undertaking. But only thus can they improve their export potential.

The industrial nations, on the other hand, whose balance of payments problems are not that grave, must step up investments to adapt to rising oil prices and to create jobs in those sectors of industry where productivity is particularly high.

Gatt views current developments with some optimism.

As opposed to the time immediately after the first oil shock, the present slowdown in economic growth is not due to cutbacks in investment but to the reticence of the private consumer.

World production in 1979 rose by four per cent over 1978. But unemployment in the industrial countries also began rising at the end of last year.

The inflation rate is also beginning to gallop again. Consumer goods prices in the industrial countries rose by 11 per cent last December over the same month in 1978 — the highest rate since 1974. By May 1980, the inflation rate was up to 12.5 per cent.

The volume of world trade (in dollars) rose by 25 per cent to more than 1,600 bn in 1979, compared with 16 per cent in 1978.

The first six months of this year showed a rise of 30 per cent, mainly due to steep price increases.

In real terms (adjusted for inflation) Gatt estimates last year's increase in world trade at about six per cent.

The explanation given for the steeper rise of trade over productivity is the stagnation of agricultural production in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and some developing countries.

World trade in manufactured goods rose 5.5 per cent, roughly the same as production.

The growth in the volume of world trade diminished in the first six months of this year to about four to five per cent.

The balance of payments surplus of the Opec countries, which amounted to 5bn dollars in 1978, is likely to rise to 11.5 billion this year.

During the same period the industrial nations' surplus of 30.3 bn turned into a deficit of 60bn.

Hans-J. Mahnke
(Die Welt, 17 September 1980)

Should the pessimists prove right and should the economic decline be more than just a passing phenomenon, revenues will drop still further. At the same time, there will be clamour for more government spending to stimulate the economy. And this means more government borrowing.

The Bundesbank has already asked to take its foot off the inflation brake. This means that the public will feel the inflation pinch even more.

It is the Opposition's right to point these dangers and their causes. But they should stop talking of a currency reform.

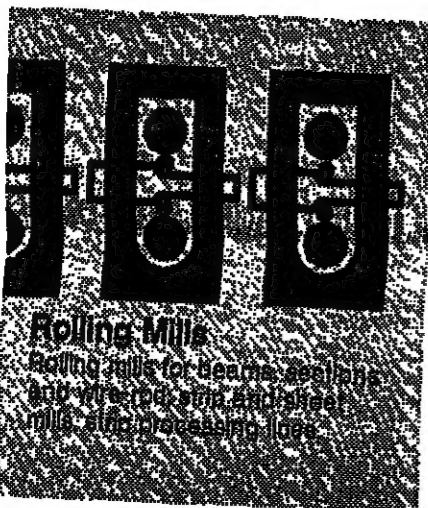
Hans-Hendrik Zentgraf
(Kölnischer Nachrichten, 18 September)

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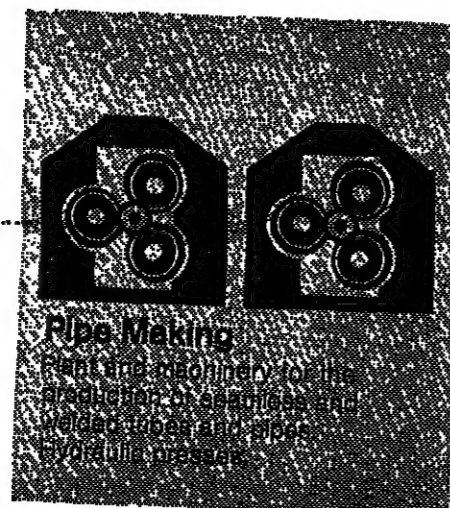
Machinery, Plants and Systems



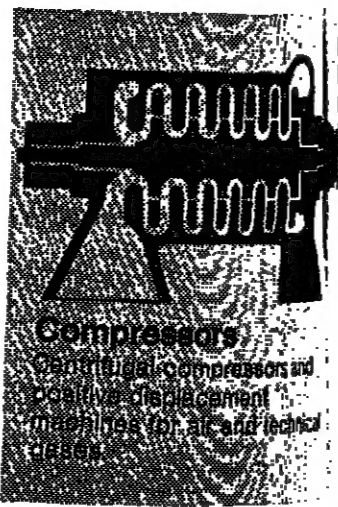
Metallurgical Plant
Integrated plant, blast fur-
naces, steel mill, continuous
casters, electroslag reheat-
ing plant.



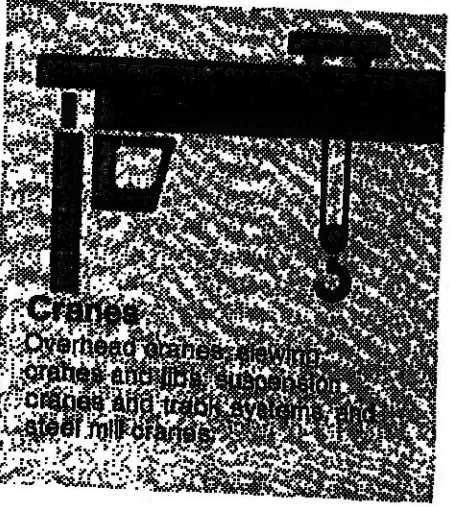
Rolling Mills
Rolling mills for beams, angles,
and welded and extruded
mills and processing lines.



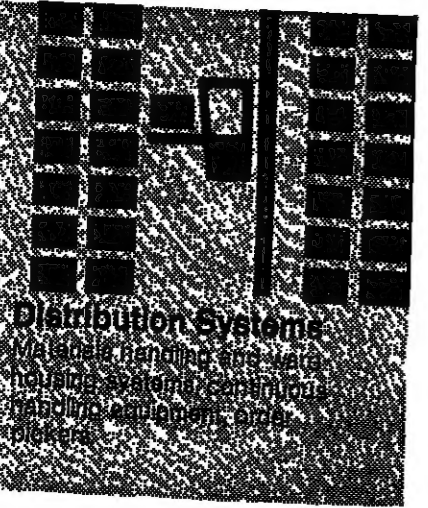
Pipe Making
Plant for making pipes
and tubes by extrusion and
welding, also for making
special pipes.



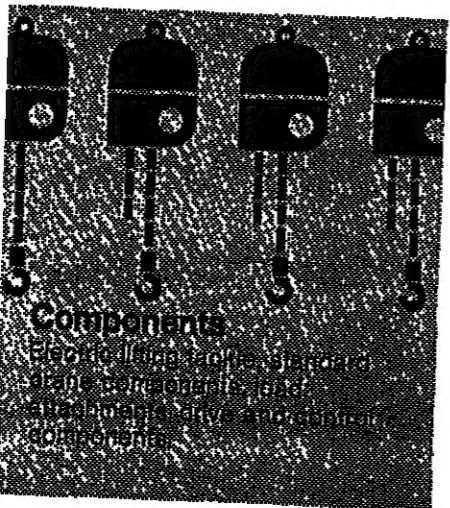
Compressors
Centrifugal compressors and
positive displacement
machines for air and gases.



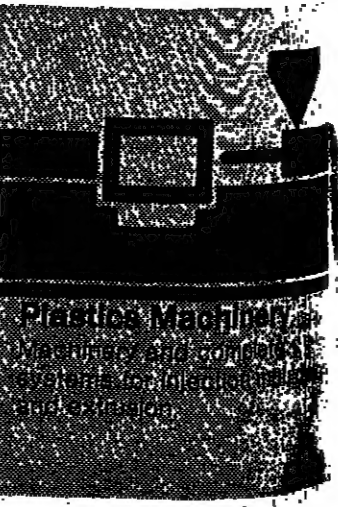
Crane
Overhead cranes, moving
cranes and suspension
cranes and track systems and
steel mill cranes.



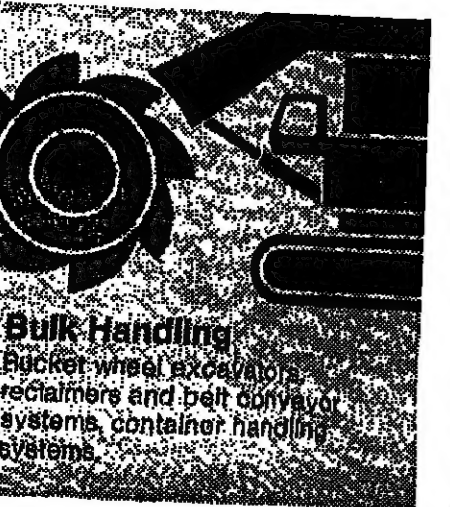
Distribution Systems
Water and gas distribution
systems, heating systems, air
conditioning equipment, etc.



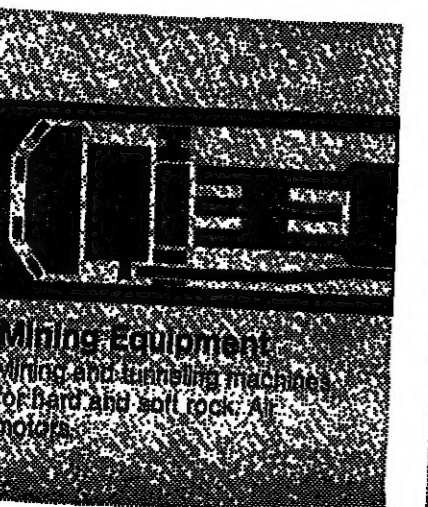
Components
Basic components for
machine construction, such
as gears, shafts, and bearings.



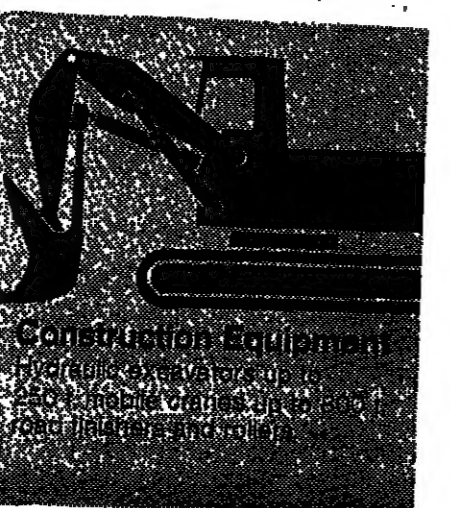
Plastic Machines
Machines for processing
plastic materials, such as
extruders and injection
moulding machines.



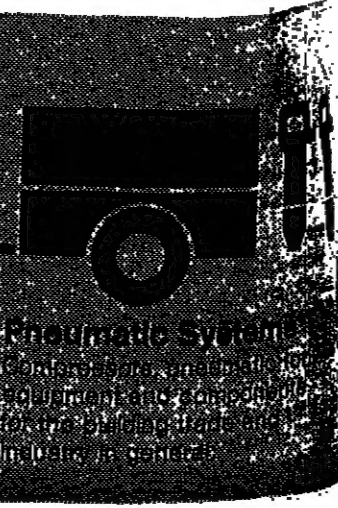
Bulk Handling
Bucket-wheel excavators,
reclaimers and belt conveyor
systems, container handling
systems.



Mining Equipment
Mining and tunneling machines,
rock drills, and rock
breakers.



Construction Equipment
Bulldozers, excavators,
graders, and other
earthmoving equipment.



Pneumatic Systems
Pneumatic systems for
automation, such as
cylinders and valves.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Industrial effluent kills off life in river

The Werra is one of the most pol-
luted rivers in Germany.
It is heavily laden with industrial eff-
luent; alkaline pollution has killed vir-
tually all animal life; for years swim-
ming in it has been out of the question.
Experts feel that all they can do is re-
store the biological demise of the Wer-
ra.

It runs 293km (183 miles) from the
forest-clad hills of Thuringia, GDR, to
Hannoversch-Münden, near Kassel.

There it joins with the Fulda to be-
come the Weser, which flows north to
Bremen, Bremerhaven and the North
Sea.

Alkaline effluent has destroyed vir-
tually all animal life in the Werra. Only
the toughest algae and most hard-nosed
fish still manage to survive in the river's
murky, toxin-infested water.

Farmers too are hit by the poor qual-
ity of the water. Pollution affects its sui-
tability as drinking water as far north as
Bremen.

Alkaline pollution of the Werra has
been a problem since the turn of the
century, when potash mining began in
the Werra valley between Eisenach and
Bad Hersfeld.

In 1913 a potash effluent commission
was established but did little towards
putting paid to pollution of the Werra.
It was pressured by industrial interests
to lay down a pollution ceiling so
generous as to have nothing in common
with safety levels as now understood.

It virtually gave the go-ahead for un-
limited pollution of the river with alkali-
ne effluent by ruling that downstream
from the mining region chloride pollu-
tion must not exceed 2,500 milligrams
per litre.

The upper limit for tapwater currently

laid down by the World Health Organi-
sation is 200 milligrams.

In 1947 the potash effluent commis-
sion ruled that GDR mines were en-
titled to pump 61.89 per cent of the
pre-war pollution ceiling into the Werra,
leaving works in Hesse the remaining
margin of 38.11 per cent of 2,500 mil-
ligrams.

GDR delegates have not attended
meetings of the commission since 1951,
but for years the agreement continued to
function.

Then, in 1968, hydrologists noticed
that pollution readings in Hesse were
suddenly way above previous levels. In
1976, for instance, alkaline pollution in
the Werra averaged five times the agreed
ceiling and at times reached a count 15
times higher.

In the West potash manufacturers,
having been saddled since 1947 with a
smaller share of the pollution level
permitted, began to pump their effluent
into porous subterranean rock forma-
tions.

The GDR abandoned this practice
and pumped waste wholesale into the Wer-
ra. It is presumed the West to have
done so because potash waste began to
resurface elsewhere, polluting ground
water and triggering earth movements.

West German firms have undeniably
been somewhat unscrupulous in their

pollution of Hesse waterways, but in the
Werra's case the GDR bears most of the
blame.

Ninety per cent of alkaline solution
in the river downstream from the potash
mining centres hails from the GDR,
which nonetheless accuses the Federal
Republic of reciprocal pollution, as it
were.

Even though the underground potash
waste shafts in the GDR have not been
in use for over 10 years the East Ger-
man authorities claim there has been
difficulty in maintaining the quality of
household water supplies in Eisenach.

The collapse of a shaft has also been
attributed to potash effluent pumped
underground in the West. An extensive
survey to clarify matters where this
claim was concerned has failed to come
up with conclusive findings.

There were fresh hopes of agreement
when Bonn and East Berlin signed the
1972 Basic Treaty on intra-German ties,
by the terms of which both undertook
to collaborate on environmental protec-
tion "to forestall danger or damage to
the other side."

The first round of talks began on 29
November 1973, but the GDR refused
to attend further environmental talks
after the Federal Environment Agency
was set up in West Berlin.

Not until April 1980 were environ-

mental issues restored to the agenda, but
in all probability it will be some time
before detailed negotiations get under
way.

Four issues hold pride of place at the
preparatory talks begun in September:

- What proportion of pollution can be
attributed to each side?
- Does subterranean waste disposal
cause damage on the other side?
- What seismological repercussions
does blasting have, given that it is in-
dispensable in potash mining?
- How is mining to be arranged in the
immediate border area?

A fifth issue is also at stake, but can-
not be dealt with until the others have
been settled. If the Werra is to be spar-
ed further pollution and subterranean
disposal is ruled out for geological rea-
sons what is to be done with the efflu-
ent?

There is only one solution so far en-
visaged: a pipeline from the Werra to
the North Sea. Potash manufacturers
would have to collect their waste and
pump it north along the pipeline.

The expense would be prodigious, up
to an estimated DM2bn. It remains to
be seen whether the GDR would be
prepared to collaborate on such a costly
venture.

What is clear, however, is that the Fe-
deral Republic cannot solve the problem
without the GDR's cooperation. So not
only environmental awareness and eco-
nomic common sense but also good
neighbourliness is required.

The atmosphere at the first round of
preparatory talks in East Berlin showed
that hopes of a settlement have not yet
been sunk without trace.

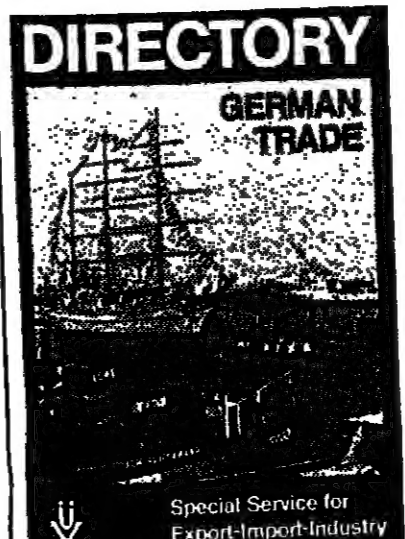
Helmut Löffel

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1980)

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OUR WORLD

Team probes influences behind African clay architecture

Scholars from the Frankfurt Frobenius Institute are studying the architecture and forms of settlement in the West African states of Niger, Mali and Upper Volta.

The project, with DM455,000 from the Volkswagen Foundation, is analysing major single buildings and different types of farms.

Traditionally, most of these buildings have been made of clay. But because of the short life expectancy of the material, general cultural change and foreign influence, West African clay architecture is seriously threatened.

The study looks at the specific social conditions that have given rise to different forms of clay architecture.

The clay architecture of the region is one of the most important and at the same time least known examples of African clay architecture. This architecture is still alive and widespread, but its future is uncertain.

It is a fine example of the creative activity of the African people on a continent otherwise not rich in monumental buildings. It provides vital clues to important cultural-historical questions and connections and it is also the vital expression of African social structures which are today often unjustly underestimated, if not ignored.



An African clay settlement.

'Archaeological desert' risk, says museum chief

West Germany is in danger of becoming an archaeological desert, according to Professor Hugo Borger, director of the Roman-Germanic Museum in Cologne.

In a lecture, Borger complained that many land conservation authorities simply did not have adequate finances to meet their task.

So-called deep-ploughing methods in forestry are also a threat, having destroyed between 10 and 15 per cent of archaeological substance in Lower Saxony.

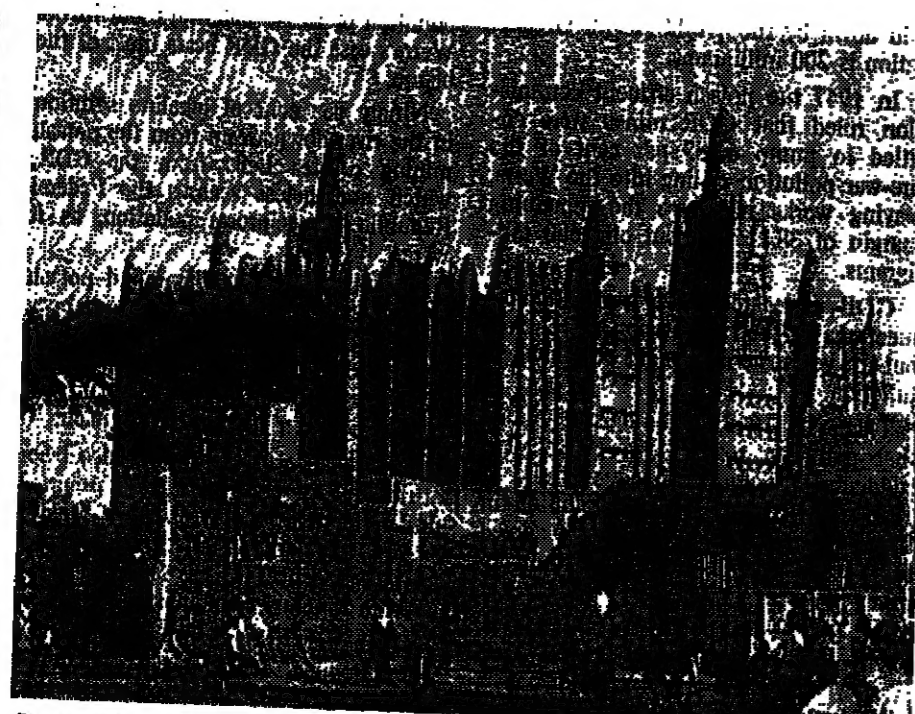
This is all the more tragic as the excavations in Cologne had shown what modern archaeological methods could achieve.

Since 1971, 28 important monuments

and relics of former centuries have been discovered during excavations in Cologne, contributing decisively to an understanding of the city's history. Among these finds were: a Roman brick works, an early Stone Age settlement and part of the town's mediaeval wall.

And it was modern transport needs of all things that favoured this development. The archaeologists went in to areas planned for underground and road development to find and save what could be found.

But Borger stressed that if important archaeological material is to be saved, large amounts of money and expensive experts are needed. Fred Hoffmann/dpa (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 11 September 1980)



Contrast in styles of mud architecture: a mosque in Mopti, Mali, looms over more mundane buildings. (Photos: Stiftung Volkswagenwerk)

The regional clay architecture is an impressive example of the close connections between people, environment and cultural development.

It comprises flat savannah with few mountains or forests from which stone or wood for building could be taken. And so inevitably clay is the most important material used in construction. The clay is dug out of the ground, mixed with water and then, after processing, with other materials (straw, clay from termite heaps).

The resulting substance is the basic material for most buildings. The methods of clay construction are manifold, from the simplest method of shaping the still-wet clay to using wooden or metal scaffolding, building with crude clay bricks which, when they are dry, are stuck together using wet clay as mortar.

This goes for all forms of clay architecture for farmhouses, barns, walls in the country to middle class dwellings, palaces and mosques in the centre.

Especially striking are the huge mosques with their rectangular minarets in the central west and in the central Sahel and the multi-storey peasant fortresses in northern Togo and Benin.

As the clay is not burnt, it offers little resistance to erosion from the wind and the downpours of the annual rain period.

Unless they are lived in and renewed every few years these buildings are soon level with the earth from which they are made. The huge walls which surrounded many towns only a generation ago have now all disappeared.

The Frankfurt scientists, led by Elke Haberland, aim to record and analyse the clay buildings in Mali, Upper Volta and parts of Niger, where the most important examples of clay architecture are to be found.

Von Wissmann, traveller-scholar in the great tradition

The man who produced the first, reliable map of Hadramaut, in Yemen, would have been 85 on 2 September.

Hermann von Wissmann died in September last year in Tübingen. He was a universal scholar, a type which sadly is becoming ever rarer.

He was one of the leading experts on south-west China and the south of the Arabian peninsula; he was an orientalist, ethnologist, linguist and historian.

Von Wissmann's map of the Hadramaut was published by the Royal Geographical Society of London in 1958. It is still more accurate than many aerial maps of the area.

Von Wissmann was also one of the leading German traveller-scholars of this century, carrying on the great tradition of Niebuhr, Seetzen, von Maltzan, Glaser and Leo Hirsch.

This delight in travel was in von Wissmann's blood. His father was one of the best known African scholars of the Wilhelmian era and later became the first Governor-General of German East Africa. Von Wissmann was born in the Rhineland but grew up in the Steiermark, which he regarded as his home.

After studies in Jena, Gießen and Munich, von Wissmann went on his first major study tour abroad, with

Two aspects here are of importance: the historical and the geographical. Clay architecture is an important chapter, hitherto unjustly neglected, in the Sudanese cultural history.

The social aspect of clay architecture had hardly been studied at all now. The Frobenius Institute aims also to uncover possible relations between environment and structures and the impact of these relations in cultural and economic history.

Such studies have up to now concentrated on unburnt clay. This time the contemporary situation is also taken into account. Slaves are neglected and authentically handled about in these contexts. Too often people do not realise the specifically meant by them.

The great heritage of Africa is apart from such familiar, common sculpture — are often not only or simply disregarded but even even disdained. A certain modern logical trend which aims to replace it by the progressive is a factor here. Mosques for example, built in a pseudo-Moroccan style, iscent of European neo-Gothic.

The Institute plans an exhibition of its finds at a later stage. The aim is to popularise and publicise this architecture and not least to Africans themselves aware of its importance in their culture.

Another aim will be to stimulate use of this native technology, improved and thus replace the desolate modern African architecture which consists largely of corrugated iron cement buildings.

Such modern architecture has paid scant attention to one of the positive structures in African society: family. It was in traditional clay buildings that the African family was able to live and develop.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 September 1980)

Hamburg geographer Carl Rathjens in Yemen.

Imam Jahja, ruler of the remote Hadramaut state in the south-west corner of the Arabian peninsula, had invited 20 scholars. And so, like Carsten Niebuhr 150 years before, they travelled from the sultry climate of Hadramaut to the Thuringian coast to the Yennish lands of Sana. Imam Jahja wanted to help in the excavation of the tomb of the ancient Arab sun god, the Badan. Archaeological field research in its early stages at the time.

Von Wissmann turned his attention to his second main area of specialisation South West China at the beginning of the thirties. He took up a professorship at the Chinese National University of Nanking.

In the six years he was there he was on expeditions to all parts of the country, concentrating on the province of Yunnan on the border with India.

In 1938 the Sino-Japanese war forced von Wissmann to return to Europe. Until his retirement, he taught as professor and director of the Tübingen University Geography Department and deputy director of the Tübingen Institute of Ethnology.

One of his main preoccupations was the study of the history of the German colonial empire. He was particularly interested in the role of the German colonial empire in the development of the German colonial empire.

Continued on page 12

BOOKS

Respected literary club leaves the turbulent days behind



Ständeschriftsteller

lin and the treasurer — for another two years.

Most of the other members of the club executive were also re-elected. There will not be a change in the leadership until the spring of 1982.

Two members of the executive, Thadäus Troll and Walter Schmieding, have died and were replaced by novelist Christine Brückner and theologian Dorothee Sölle.

Their election means that women are now almost as strongly represented on the executive as men. The other women members are Geno Hartlaub and Ingeborg Drewitz.

The men on the executive are: Peter Härtling, Bernd Engelmann, Walter Fabian, Johannes Poethen and Gert Kalow.

Given the general harmony and the appreciative mood created by the calming of the atmosphere, it was natural that the meeting would unanimously pass two resolutions.

One deplored a statement by Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss who, according to a reliable report in the *Württembergische Zeitung*, said at an election meeting that it was time to put a stop to the activities of the "pen-push-

ing criminals" and "microphone agitators." In the context, it was clear that Strauss was referring to Jens.

The Pen Club resolution said: "This is the language of violence and brutal intimidation. Whoever, avoiding rational discussion, threatens people's basic rights, destroys the vital bases of democracy."

The second resolution was against increasing hatred of foreigners in West Germany. It recalled the fact that numerous Germans found political asylum in other countries during the years of Nazi rule. It said that the basic right of political asylum should not be diluted in any way.

The meeting went so quickly and smoothly that there was no need for the planned afternoon session. This was bad luck for writer Peter Rühmkorf, who arrived late. In 1967 the Group 47 passed an anti-Springer-resolution calling on writers not to write for the Springer press or have articles published in it.

Rühmkorf felt that not enough notice had been taken of this appeal even though the quality of the Springer press had not since improved — "the journalism in these papers is an insult to democracy."

Rühmkorf said that German writers today were less protest writers than *festschrift* writers. Rühmkorf was able to air his plan and even gather signatures for it the next day but it was not discussed or even passed because the meeting proper had by then ended.

This was a pity, as the discussion might perhaps have given us a deeper insight into the state of consciousness of the Pen Club members present.

The only clue to this was the natural solidarity shown with the chairman who, after his election, declared, clearly referring to the Strauss speech: "You have elected a chairman who is part of the 'political underground' and the 'literary subculture'."

The main literary topic at the meeting was the literature of exile. A series of well-attended events attempted to bring nearer to the public the literature of exile which has never really made a major impact since 1945 — with some notable exceptions.

Feelings of writers

In exile

The series opened with an uneven but absorbing evening in which former German writers in exile described their feelings on Crossing the Border. It continued with a panel discussion in which literary historians and archivists discussed the present state of research into the literature of exile.

And it concluded with an event in honour of Hermann Kesten — honorary president of the German Pen Club — in which contemporary German authors read texts by less well-known writers of exile. The evening became a homage by contemporary writers to the literature of exile.

The opportunities for research into the literature of exile today are unlimited, and funds are not lacking either. Nonetheless, it seems to have remained a domain of a few specialists such as

Hans Albert Wagner. These scholars run the risk of making an ideology of their study of exile literature by making it into a genre of its own and interpreting it mainly politically.

It was noticeable, at least among the researchers present, that there was a tendency to discuss the subject almost exclusively in political and historiographical terms. Literary and aesthetic criteria did not seem to count for much.

So it was hardly surprising when Marcel Reich Ranicki objected to the study of exile literature from a political or "compassionate" perspective and insisted that literary criteria should be brought into play. H.A. Walter, in his overlong lecture of *Das Bell von Wandsbek*, a book on Germany written by Arnold Zweig in Palestinian exile, gave an involuntary demonstration of how fruitless a self-satisfied and limited-perspective study of the image of Germany in exile can be.

It is essential that in the future the literature of exile should be regarded not as a special genre but as part of the general study of history and literature.

It is difficult to understand why Franz Josef Strauss so successfully halted attempts by his party colleagues Helmut Kohl, Bernhard Vogel and Richard von Weizsäcker to achieve a dialogue with German writers.

SPD leader Willy Brandt, himself a former writer in exile, was given a hearty welcome by the meeting. The subject on the agenda was the problem of the comparative failure in both German states to reintegrate the literature of exile. (Professor Kamnitzer, chairman of the East German Pen Club, was also present). It was a major achievement of the Pen Club to bring this important subject to the attention of the public.

The club's working topic next year — in Freiburg next May — is no less fascinating: literature and history.

Kurt Sonthheimer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1980)

Black Africa theme of Frankfurt fair

Black Africa will be the main theme of this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, which will again be the biggest ever.

A total of 5,146 publishing houses from 94 countries will be taking part including representation from 31 Black African nations.

South Africa will be represented, although it did not get a special invitation. More than 300,000 new books will be presented.

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Congolese writer and president of the African Writers' Association, Tchicaya U Tam'si, will speak at the opening.

Among the many special events under the motto Africa Seeking Its Identity are two exhibitions: in the Africana exhibition, 35 countries will present 3,500 books about the Black Continent.

And in the Africa Hall, number 7-202 publishers from 29 countries will present their books under the heading Printed and Published in Africa.

This exhibition will later be shown in Berlin, at Unesco in Paris, and then in some African countries.

The fair will also set up a non-profit-making Third World Agency with its own stand.

Its purpose will be to look after authors and stimulate ideas for translations.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 11 September 1980)

DIE GROSSEN 500

Edited by Dr Ernst Schmacke, a loose-leaf work in two files, currently totalling about 2,000 pp., DM 198, updated refill pages at present cost 18 Pf. each. Publisher's Order No. 10 600.

The editor of the "Big 500" is head of public relations at Mannesmann Demag AG, a man of industry who here summarises names, data, facts and addresses in an ideal and up-to-the-minute industrial fact-finder.

It lists in precise detail:

- company names/addresses/lines of business/parent company
- world turnover/export percentage/balance sheet total
- three-year turnover review of company performance
- payroll/share capital/reserves/property and equipment/holdings/cash in hand
- dividends/profits per share/investments
- industries in which active/plant/holdings overseas
- membership of supervisory and management boards with biodata and fields of responsibility
- index of companies and individuals

The "Big 500" listings are based mainly on company turnover. All manufacturing, commercial and service companies that publish independent balance sheets and qualify in turnover terms are included. So are a fair number of companies that were hard on their heels in 1979. Some are sure to be promoted to the ranks of the Big 500 in 1980. The picture of West Germany's leading companies would be incomplete without banks and insurance companies; they are separately listed.

Luchterhand

POB 1780, D-5450 Neuwied, Federal Republic of Germany

■ MEDICINE

Advance in pathology helps in study of why babies are born deformed

Hereditary malformation in babies is no more common than at the turn of the century, a congress in Münster has been told.

It had been widely thought among the public that the occurrence has become more frequent during the century.

But this was strongly rebutted at the Eighth Congress of the European Society for Teratology.

One hundred and fifty delegates from 16 countries attended.

They were told that the rate in percentage terms of children born with malformations is no higher than at the turn of the century.

The point is that we know much more about hereditary anomalies than did our forebears. In many cases, progress in biochemistry, genetics and pa-



Pathology has enabled doctors to follow up the less conspicuous anomalies.

Since Siamese twins and two-headed babies are as rare today as they were in the past, researchers assume that the lesser anomalies have also not increased markedly.

This does of course not apply to the 1950s with the thalidomide babies. We have still not overcome the thalidomide shock and the fear is that a similar incident could happen.

But it was said time and again on the periphery of the conference in Münster

that an incident of similar proportions is unlikely.

Though certain medications have been suspected of causing malformations, the suspicion has not been confirmed.

An American study, for instance, surveyed the effects of various drugs on more than 80,000 pregnant women and a similar German study reviewed well over 10,000 pregnancies.

But these are still too few to arrive at a definite picture. This also shows how difficult and how costly it is (the American study cost many millions of dollars) to arrive at absolutely certain results.

The only thing women can do during pregnancy to reduce the risk to their babies as much as possible is to forgo all drugs not prescribed by a doctor.

Women should also forgo alcohol during pregnancy.

Professor Frank Majewski of the Institute for Human Genetics and Anthropology of Düsseldorf University told the delegates that alcohol is the most frequent cause of development disorders of the embryo.

There are said to be between 200,000 and 300,000 alcoholic women of child bearing age in West Germany. Their progeny could have any number of malformations. In most cases the head is too small, development is hampered and there are conspicuous facial anomalies. These include shorter noses and receding chins.

There are also frequent heart disorders, joint anomalies and genital disorders.

Almost all children of alcoholics are mentally handicapped, particularly true in the case of mothers who continue drinking pregnancy.

According to Professor Majewski, estimated 1,800 children with mental disorders are born in this country every year. But since there are no official records on malformations, figures are based on estimates.

The past few years have been marked by many research results that shed light on the causes of malformations.

Much of today's research concentrates on the placenta which is partly from the mother's body and partly from the shedding of the side of the fertilized ovum. For the child, the placenta is the most important organ, accounts for all the functions of the child itself is incapable.

The Münster meeting clearly demonstrated that there is much progress in the field of teratology. In 70 per cent of malformation cases, reasons are unknown. There is much to be done.

Konrad Müller-Christen
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 September)

Continued from page 10

this period was research into the comparatively unknown era of Arab before Mohammed.

Although Arab culture reached apogee under Islam, Arab scholars now increasingly concentrating on ancient Arabian empire of the Min, Sabaeans and Himyarites in the south of the peninsula. The image of the Arab in history has changed considerably the past two decades — a process which von Wissmann played a vital role.

Wolfgang G. Li
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 September)

Prevention is ideal, but no longer cheaper than cure

Preventive medicine might be better than cure, but it is by no means cheaper. Rising health costs mean that hopes held out for prevention have been too high.

Psychologists have provided an explanation of this. They say that nobody can show great interest in the long term asset "health" if he has to put up with temporary discomfort or forgo unhealthy habits.

Moreover, much that goes under the heading "preventive medicine" is no more than early diagnosis — which is not even effective in many cases.

One of the four days of the 6th annual Congress of the International Society for Preventive Medicine in Berlin was devoted to "Preventing the face from aging", involving plastic surgery.

The chairman of the Congress, Professor Joachim Jabka, a plastic surgeon.

He told the delegates that, unlike cosmetic surgeons, he and his colleagues wanted to preserve the typical features of the patient.

The Berlin specialist related the relatively unknown fact that the cartilage tissue of the nose continues growing until death. As a result, the human nose grows bigger and bigger: in males by about 4mm lengthwise and 3mm in width. The female nose grows by 6 and 3.5mm respectively between the 30th and the 80th year. And since the circumference of the head shrinks in age, the nose becomes even more prominent.

But this need not be so. Preventive surgery can stop such a development. Plastic surgeons know that a scar on the nose prevents the growth of the cartilage. Professor Jabka makes use of this fact to counter the excessive growth of the nose, especially in women, by minor surgery at the age of between 30 and 40.

The operation creates a small scar and so retards the growth. The scar, incidentally, is on the inside and not visible.

The surgeon called on the national health service to bear the cost of such preventive surgery.

But plastic surgeons represented only one branch of medicine at the Congress. Others spoke on the preventive character of genetic counselling, prenatal diagnosis and modern obstetrics.

The dentists said that they were pondering possibilities of preventing caries and paradontosis.

Dermatologists engaged in preventive medicine by warning against excessive sunbathing and improper use of sun lamps, both of which promote premature aging and can cause skin cancer.

Justin Westhoff
(Der Tagesspiegel, 16 September 1980)

A discussion as part of the Therapy Week in Karlsruhe showed that there are no firm standards of conduct on one of the medical profession's toughest jobs: the information to be given to or withheld from a cancer patient.

The only general maxim that transpired was that the patient must be treated as a person and not be left alone in his plight.

The theme of the discussion between a general practitioner, a radiologist, a surgeon, a psychiatrist and an experienced nurse was: "Truthfulness at the bedside — even with cancer patients?"

The actual problem was not "truth itself" — in other words, the matter-of-fact description of a medical condition — but the emotional involvement of the doctor.

Participants and the audience agreed that this required three major elements: the doctor must inform but he must not foist himself on the patient and must not deprive him of hope.

He must tell the truth but — if necessary — not the whole truth. He must talk about death without calling it by name. But all this confronts the doctor with almost insoluble conflicts, making him "speechless".

The unconscious fear of his own death in the face of the death of others makes the doctor stop at the door of a terminal case. Yet he does not enter the room — doctors, too, suppress death. The fact is that cancer patients are visited less frequently than others.

Cancer is a spectre of modern industrial society and rigid concepts of it frequently stop people talking about it.

No doctor, it turned out, finds it easy

The doctor's dilemma: what to tell the cancer victim



to talk about it to a patient. He knows that there are many types of cancer; but the patient does not want to know about them. All he wants is an answer to the question: Do I have cancer... must I die?

The psychiatrist called on the media to inform the public that there is no such thing as cancer in general. There are only many forms of malignant tumours that vary in frequency and respond differently to therapy and that therefore the prospects of survival also vary from case to case.

The doctor, the psychiatrist said, is today the only person still in a position to call death by name. For the rest, our vocabulary has displaced the word, and we speak of "the departed", "gone to rest", etc.

The general practitioner held that the doctor has to develop a stable relationship of confidence with the patient, preserve the patient's independence and combat his fear and uncertainty.

Days later, he told the patient that the disease was caused by malignant cells and that there was a possibility of lung cancer. The only possible treatment

was by medication, he said. During another visit, the doctor discussed therapy and its prospects. He and the patient agreed on a wait-and-see attitude.

The patient, an artist, initially reacted by listening without replying. But he understood and began to talk.

Full information was given in this therefore easier to bear.

The surgeon said that doctor-patient relations are frequently intensified when the patient is told of the diagnosis. In fact, it is not the patient but the doctor who is afraid of putting the truth open. Something to be borne in mind is that very few cancer patients commit suicide.

The nurse earned the most applause. She described her own conflict: What must I do when the doctor refuses to inform the patient who then turns to me for an answer? For legal reasons, the nurse may not provide the information. "All I can do is put pressure on the doctor."

"Information imparts new life, and has been amazed time and again how the illness makes the patient mature." She cited a leukaemia patient who died shortly before his death: "My last year of life has been the most important of my life."

Klaus Dittmar
(Nordwest-Zeitung, 16 September 1980)



Royal Dutch are the second-largest oil company in the world. Dutch tugs serve shipping on five oceans. The Dutch build port facilities along all those coastlines. Fokker Friendship airliners made in Holland ply short-haul routes the world over.

Holland is too small for the Dutch. Small wonder ABN, a Dutch bank, has branches in financial and trading centres all over the world.

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SOCIAL WELFARE

Prostitutes' self-help plan for new life



Even Hamburg's official tourism promotion brochure speaks of the city's prostitutes as if they were some sort of commodity:

"Those who need a girl for *Pamour* are best off on Herbert Street." The brochure goes on to tell visitors that they "rarely get it at the price they have bargained out in the Eros Centre. But you can have fun without trouble in the contact cafes."

This contempt for the prostitute is also evident in dealings with women who want to get out of prostitution and lead a normal life.

Inhabitants and social workers of The Ark, Hamburg's self-administered home for former prostitutes, have experienced this time and again.

Instead of accepting the women's decision to start a new life as proof of moral strength, the city's welfare office intimates that they are unable to take their lives into their own hands.

Last December, The Ark moved into a derelict house in a Hamburg suburb. The women fixed the building, decorated their rooms and furnished a common room. Now they are working on a hobby room and a party basement.

There are five women to each storey where they share a kitchen and a bathroom. They cater for themselves.

In group discussions, the women learn that prostitution is not due to individual

failure but that it is a problem of society itself.

During their stay in The Ark they busy themselves trying to find an apartment and a suitable job.

The social workers don't consider themselves as some superior educators who want to rid their "clients" of all conspicuous traits and lead them back to "normal" life. They consider that the women can only build self confidence and independence by administering their new home on their own.

It was this concept that was presented to the Hamburg Welfare Authority as a basis for further financial assistance. But it met with little understanding.

The State Rehabilitation Agency wrote to The Ark that "former prostitutes would be overtaxed by the concept of a 'women's house' once they have opted out of their profession and are faced with the necessity of becoming integrated into normal life. Any reintegration of these women presupposes a certain stage of development that would take a long time to reach."

In their angry reply, the social workers told the authorities that they did not view the inhabitants of The Ark as clients and that it was not their intention to "integrate them into a normal life."

Instead, the idea was to lend them a hand in leading a life as they themselves see fit.

But the social workers and the authorities are not only at odds regarding the concept. They also don't see eye to eye on the financing.

So far, The Ark has been financed by

making use of the controversial Section 72 of the Social Welfare Act which reads: "Persons who are hampered in participating in community life through special social difficulties are to be given assistance to overcome these difficulties if they are not capable of doing so from their own resources."

This section of the Welfare Act was originally meant to apply to the homeless, ex-prisoners, juvenile drug addicts, etc.

Thus the inhabitants of The Ark — like those of homes for battered women — are discriminated against as not being capable of forming part of the community, and this has had financial consequences: The agency pays a daily DM78.35 per inhabitant of The Ark. But the moment occupation drops below 80 per cent (there are 14 places at present), the budget no longer works. As a result, The Ark demands a fixed annual sum to be paid from the city budget.

Financing via Section 72 involves yet another problem: the social workers must write a special "social report" on every newly admitted tenant, describing the situation of the person concerned and making a development forecast.

But exactly this is contrary to their concept. They don't want to act as the long arm of the authorities because this would endanger the relationship of mutual confidence.

Moreover, many inhabitants of The Ark fear that the "social report" will brand them for the future.

The personal dossier can be handed from one government authority to another.

All this makes the women of The Ark special cases while the situation of prostitutes is simply "an extreme form of the man-woman relationship in our society."

Werner Sökeland
(Die Welt, 19 September 1980)

Bonn backs scheme to help battered children

ly to the point where there is no longer any danger to the child and hence no necessity to have it institutionalised.

The Youth Assistance Act, which has so far been blocked by the conservatives, could provide a basis for such centres nationwide.

There is no sign of red tape at the Berlin centre. Since help in case of child battering must be made available swiftly and be easily accessible, the staff work from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on normal weekdays, and round the clock Friday through Sunday.

But even after 8 p.m. on weekdays there is still an answering service in operation. Unfortunately, funds won't stretch to manning the telephone throughout the night.

In many cases, mere telephone counselling can be helpful. Desperate parents and children, friends and relatives, can be helped by giving them pointers on the public institutions that could be of assistance in any particular case.

Frequently, the six fulltime and nine honorary staff members are called out to help cope with a crisis.

Families already under the care of the centre and others that have had no dealings with it before see their last possibility in a desperate phone call. The calls are triggered by violent fighting, intended suicide, nervous breakdowns

frequently in connection with alcohol abuse.

These crisis missions can take hours or, indeed, a whole day.

Most people visit or phone the centre of their own accord.

Of the 70 families that have received intensive counselling so far, 55 reported on their own and 15 were sent by doctors or teachers.

Of course, the centres try to encourage doctors and teachers to gain the families' confidence and so help them.

The Berlin centre looks after 40 to 50 families at any given time — mostly by telephone because guilt feelings prevent the people from showing up in person.

Mostly, the acute danger to the child can be overcome after the first session of talks. But actual "treatment" takes longer (sometimes up to two years).

The Berlin centre was very recently augmented by a children's home with nine places in an old Berlin villa. Here, children for whom it would be too dangerous to stay at home live in a family type atmosphere with a maximum of two children per staff member. But only children whose parents have agreed are accepted and the parents have regular visiting rights.

Here, too, the ultimate aim is to restore the family and spare the child institutionalisation.

Wolfgang Carst
(Vorwärts, 18 September 1980)

Rewards of fostering

Looking after a foster child is tough. Foster children who stay with their own families are scarred by past experience.

Their great need of love and, frequently, their behavioural disorders require much patience by the parents.

Yet according to the Hamburg Youth Authority, taking on a foster child is no means an incalculable adventure. Foster parents and children are matched.

There can be no disputing that foster children, all of whom suffered setbacks, stand a better chance with a foster family than in institutions. Moreover, the foster family derives from the pride and pleasure of the child's progress.

The Youth Authority stresses the success of fostering. Hamburg is experimenting with ways of finding foster homes.

Hamburg is experimenting with ways of finding foster homes. The state's senator for labour, youth and social affairs, Jan Ehlers, now wants to bid to find more foster parents.

There are some 100 Hamburg children hoping to benefit from the campaign.

Some 2,000 children in this city live in foster homes. Another 600 found places on the outskirts of the city.

The city now has 2,250 children (per cent) who — for one reason or another — cannot live with their families and must therefore be institutionalised. In 1972, there were 1.2 per cent.

There is a clear trend now to institutionalise children only if all other measures such as educational counselling, group discussion or teaching day have failed and there are clear behavioural disorders.

Eighty per cent of Hamburg's institutionalised children are older than 12. The children for whom the city is looking for foster homes are also mostly school-going age, ranging between 7 and 12.

Many of them suffer from behavioural disorders such as inability to communicate, aggression, anxiety or lack of concentration.

Hamburg's new drive is based on a psychological study on the motivation of foster parents, the image of foster parents and children and the foster parents' wishes regarding counselling.

According to the study, most foster parents are motivated by their pleasure in having children around them. But a child to achieve a more satisfying life also plays a major role.

What troubles foster parents most is the lack of public recognition.

They complain that the public is unfamiliar with their true motives and that it frequently assumes that the only reason they took on a child was financial gain.

According to the Hamburg authorities such an assumption is untenable. The money paid for a foster child's upkeep is only just enough to cover expenses.

The new psychological study will be used to cope with the dissatisfaction of foster parents with the authorities.

Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 18 September 1980

SPORT

Beckenbauer leaves US on the crest of a championship wave



Müller, now playing for the Strikers, had to pull out of the game after 40 minutes with a muscle injury.

Hennes Weisweiler, five times manager of championship winning sides (Mönchengladbach — three times, Cologne, once and Cosmos) said that Beckenbauer need have no worries about returning to the Bundesliga.

The apparent contradiction — praise from others, self-criticism by Beckenbauer — becomes easier to unravel when one looks closer at Müller's words.

Müller, who is rather chubbier but still lethal in the box, has put his finger on what Beckenbauer has tried to overlook.

Beckenbauer has made too many compromises about what position to play in. Since he has been with Cosmos he has, with a few brilliant exceptions, played in midfield.

A few weeks ago, when Beckenbauer played libero instead of the injured Brazilian Carlos Alberto, the *New York Times* wrote: "Now the New York fans know what they have been missing for years."

But Beckenbauer is not so sure. He is so plagued by doubts about whether libero is his natural game that he reacts defensively to compliments.

Example: a reporter said it was obvious that he would play libero with his new club, Hamburg SV.

Beckenbauer: "Of course I would like to. But this is a matter for the manager, Herr Zebec."

And Beckenbauer would not have played libero against Fort Lauderdale if Weisweiler had not gently persuaded

him to do so, even at the risk of a row with Carlos Alberto, the team's usual libero.

When Weisweiler told Alberto late in the afternoon that he was dropped, Alberto at first refused to sit on the substitutes' bench. It was not until the Cosmos bosses backed Weisweiler that Alberto acquiesced.

But after the game he said: "I have now two possibilities. Either to accept the situation or to hit back. I have decided for the second. I will never play for Herr Weisweiler again."

Weisweiler: "In the heat of the moment one says many things. Franz has proven that he is the better player."



Franz Beckenbauer
(Photo: Horst Müller)

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Referees are target of the latest Breitner outburst

Paul Breitner, Bayern Munich's captain and midfield ace, has spoken out again.

This time, it is the referees that are the target of his outburst.

He says referees are "complete beginners", "idiots", and "people with pent-up aggressions."

However, he concedes that the escalation of trouble on the field is due to his player colleagues rather than the referees.

Breitner's statement that many players today practise cunning and "tricks" which referees cannot see speaks volumes.

Whenever Breitner says anything, the sparks fly. Before this latest outburst an illustrated magazine published a series of verbal broadsides against the German Football Association.

And the pictures showing Breitner and the national team manager, Jupp Derwall, in a chummy pose after Bayern's championship victory earlier this year, are still fresh in the memory.

The picture was taken after Breitner had publicly spoken out against Derwall. Jupp Derwall has got over this now. He attributes Breitner's outbursts to his temperament and does not believe that they are his real convictions.

Horst Müller-Mann
(Kölnische Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 September 1980)

International athletics ends on a brighter note

What looked like being the unhappy ending to an unhappy season ended up for the good after all, said Adrian Paulen, the Dutch President of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, after the eight-nation athletics cup in Tokyo.

At the same time it became clear that the criticism of the Japanese organisers, who dropped the points rating under pressure from the Soviet Union who feared defeat by the Americans, was based on false premises.

If the hosts had not accepted the Soviet demands, the Soviet team would not have appeared in Tokyo and Paulen would not have been able to say that "Moscow is still interested in cooperation in sport and does not intend to reply to one boycott with another."

It is completely irrelevant in this context that Russian fears of a lowering of their international standing following a defeat by the Americans were unfounded — although their attitude conforms to our image of the importance attached to sporting prowess in the East Bloc.

After the Olympic boycott had split international sport, Tokyo's function was more in the realm of sport politics than of sport. And that function has been fulfilled, thanks to Japanese tolerance

It was not surprising that Beckenbauer was twice beaten during Lauderdale attacks. He had such difficulties in the past too. Schwarzenbeck often had to clear up more situations behind Beckenbauer than the Kaiser's fans would be prepared to concede.

In Hamburg, he will have the support of Kaltz, Jakobs, Buljan and Groh if he should slip up.

Beckenbauer's incomparable qualities are now, as always, in attack. He only made one wrong pass in the final. He was the schemer, the play maker, the best man on the park.

Of course one has to see things in proportion. By Bundesliga standards the pace in the first half was slow, though it picked up considerably in the second.

Cosmos, despite all the work Weisweiler has put in, still cannot be compared with a leading Bundesliga team such as Bayern Munich or Hamburg SV.

Nonetheless, soccer is making a major breakthrough in the USA. German FA President Neuberger did not rule out the possibility of FIFA adopting the US 35-yard offside rule and staging the 1990 World Cup in the US.

"And if Colombia cannot stage the 1986 finals, the Americans have said they will step in."

Cosmos paid 120,000 dollars win bonus for the final. Bernd Schuster the Cologne International midfielder whom Cosmos want to replace Beckenbauer with, could become a rich man in the US. Cosmos officials are now negotiating his transfer with Cologne.

Fears that Schuster would be lost to German football are misplaced. First, Neuberger intends to dictate tough terms to ensure he is released for international games. And second, the quality of the final showed that the Americans can produce quite a tasty brand of football themselves.

Kurt Röttgen
(Die Welt, 23 September 1980)

Students' protest

and readiness to compromise. There now seems little danger of a split in the IAAF.

It seems that the Soviets do not want to bear grudges. Boycott and counter-boycott are now, one hears, to be forgotten. It must not necessarily be assumed that this is mere lip service. More than the boycotters from Canada, the USA, West Germany, Norway and Japan, the Soviets need to compete with the West. How else than through sport can they demonstrate the superiority of their system?

The Russians had however indicated even before Tokyo how seriously they took the continuation of sporting competition with the West. They took part in the decathlon international with West Germany in Westphalia at the beginning of September. This was already a sign that the fronts had softened.

Given this surprising change from confrontation to cooperation, we can all breathe a sigh of relief. Let us hope that it lasts.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 September 1980)